## 'Saboteur' a Clever Thriller, But Not Mr. H. at His Best

Hitchcock Picture at Keith's Has Mood Of Something Far Lighter and Less Tense Than Its Title

By JAY CARMODY.

"Saboteur" as the title of a picture made by Alfred Hitchcock has a super sound about it. There, you say to yourself, is a theme on which the melodrama man should spread himself with a lavishness the like of which one seldom experiences. The hero and heroine should be more heroic than ever before in a Hitchcock picture, the villains more dark and evil. The suspense should be at least spectacular, the dialogue inordinately brilliant and meaning—

which make which opened at Keith's with a glittering sort of world premiere, disappointing. The Hitcheock semula has been applied with the direc-lor's admirable

thing, but the fact remains that the photoplay is not as good as its title. Sabotage should have been the special dish of the thrill maker. Instead it looks like something warmed over, a melange of cops and obbers and romance with Freudian races, prepared with a kind of cas-ual confidence that it would get by

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on its flashes of cleverness. It doesn't. Not with us, at least, who yield to no man in fealty to the master.

It may be, of course, that the rotund English director was trying to get away from the documentary flavor inherent in a title such as "Saboteur." If that was the case he managed a bit over well for the general tone of the picture is that of sophisticated comedy which is never too sophisticated to become slapstickish when the mood descends upon the director,

"Saboteur," which introduces Rob-ert Cummings, Priscilla Lane, Otto Rruger and a generally skilled cast, is a chase story. The chase begins with a fire in an aircraft factory in which the police and F. B. I. with unbecoming dullness for these times, jump to the conclusion that the hero is guilty. To prove that he is not, he undertakes to track down the guilty Nazi agent. That makes the chase double rich, the hero pursuing the villain the police pursuing the Kruger and a generally skilled cast. the villain, the police pursuing the

A pursuit like that covers a great deal of ground—between Los Angeles and New York to be road mappish about it—and it serves the useful purpose of allowing Hitchcock to introduce those always pleasantly wacky characters of his who just seem to drop into the story. They include a philosophic truck driver who keeps himself awake by lecturing on the tragedy of marriage, a bilind composer who sees more than you can, a truculent midget with Fascist leanings, a pair of Siamese of first atiousness and demureness, a soft-spoken tycoon who love his grandchild as much as he despises democracy and a down others who fiash into and out of the scene.

3-hour shows in each of the following cities:

May 1, Boston: May 2, Philadelphia; May 3, Cleveland; May 5, Detroit; May 6, Chicago; May 8, St.

Louis; May 9 (afternoon), St. Paul; evening. Minneapolis; May 10, Des Moines; May 11, Dallas and May 12, Houston.

Charles Boyer, Spencer Tracy, lips moving mutely as he memorizes those romantic lines.

Cagney, Claudette Colbert and Joan Bennett will carry the dramatic burden. Vocally, there will be rise Stevens, Desi Arnez, Ray Middleton and Frances Langford. And for fun: Bob Hope (master of ceremonics), Laurel and Hardy, Charles and out of the scene.

The company, composed of 80 people, will travel in a train known wasn't so good as usual, the story A pursuit like that covers a great deal of ground—between Los An-geles and New York to be road

Typical of the suspenseful incident with which "Saboteur" is overlaid is a sequence in which the herotne (Alias Lane), held prisoner in a hotel room, writes a "help, help" note on a blotter and drope it out of a tower window. The pioture achieves a virtual agony of tensity before the note in its wild fluttering reaches the ground after pausing en route at the windows of several curious tenants.

Errol Plynn revealed today that he has been turned down twice by Naval medical examiners because of a leaky heart. The rollicking bladesman of "Robin Hood" and other swashbuckling epics is undersoing treatments which the doctor assures will put him in shape for Uncle Sam.

"For Whom the Bell Tells" may draw another postponement. Sam Wood, scheduled to direct, is still toiling over "Pride of the Yankees"

several curious tenants.

How it comes out is a matter between you and Mr. Hitchcock, which takes looms for the Lou Gehrig life is also true of what happens during the hero and villain hold a tete-a- is brooding Charles Boyer. When he tete in the most fantastic setting reports for work in the morning,

you ever saw for such an affair. Hitchcock's skill in getting the best possible performance out of his large cast is manifest in every foot of "Saboteur." Even when their material is flimsy to the point of transparency, his players are in there doing their best. The out-standing individual performance is that of Otto Kruger as the suave, velvet-voiced ober-saboteur. Not far behind are Cummings as the persistent Nazi chaser, Norman Lloyd as the furtive, foxlike spy and Clem Bevans as the blind composer. They would be still better in a more Hitchcock-like picture.

Day Care of Children' Topic Dr. Grace Langdon of the W. P. A., will address a meeting on "Wartime Day Care of Children," sponsored by the American Women's Voluntary Services, at 8 o'clock to-night in the auditorium of the North Interior Building.

## Where and When

Current Theater Attractions and Time of Showing National — "Hellzapoppin'," with Eddie Garr and Billy House: 8:15

Capitel—"Song of the Islands,"
Betty Grable in hula skirts and
technicolor: 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15
and 9:55 p.m. Stage shows: 12:45,
3:30, 6:15 and 9 p.m.

Columbia—"Courtship of Andy Hardy," another episode in the life of A. Hardy: 10:45 a.m., 1, 3:10, 5:25,

7:40 and 9:55 p.m. Earle-"Kings Row," film version of the dramatic novel: 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15 and 10 p.m. Stage shows: 1:10, 4, 6:45 and 9:35 p.m.

Keith's—"All That Money Can Buy," film version of "The Devil and Daniel Webster": 11:55 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:40 p.m. Little—"Mayerling," the intense Prench drama in another visit: 11 a.m., 12:45, 2:30, 4:15, 6:05, 7:55 and

Motropelitan—"The Fleet's In," with Dorothy Lamour to greet it: 11 a.m., 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35 and

0:40 p.m. Palace-"To the Shores of Trip oli," the U. S. Marines in action

10:45 a.m., 12:55, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35 and Pix—"Paris Calling," with Elizabeth Bergner: 2, 4:08; 5:50, 7:58 and 9:56 p.m.

Trans-Lux — News and shorts; ontinuous from 10 a.m.



PORTRAIT OF A HAPPY MAN-Director Alfred Hitchcock clowns for cameramen as Mrs. Hitchcock smiling looks on, at Wednesday night's world premiere of his newest film, "Sabo-teur," now at Keith's. —Star Staff Photo. teur," now at Ketth's.

## 'Star-Spangled Special' Starts Its Tour Sunday

By HABOLD HEFFERNAN.

Most glittering glamour show ever put on tour will be the Hollywood Victory Caravan, which trains out Sunday night with at least of the screen's top stars.

Opening, in Washington, next Thursday night, the group will stage 3-hour shows in each of the following cities:

fiash into and out of the scene.

In building toward its rather fabulous and implausible climax, Hitchcock's picture makes constant use of the trick of setting the audience on the edge of its seat and then exploding it into relaxing laughter. The clever hand of Dorothy Parker is visible in much of the dislogue which achieves the proportions of pretty understatement every time that kind of surprise is indicated.

The company, composed of 80 people, will travel in a train known as the "Star Spangled Special." And for once, there will be no tempest over "billing." The stars have promised to appear in whatever order the show's manager deems most fitting. First one to pout, according to a pledge signed by all, will purchase a \$5,000 war bond to be handed over to a charitable organization in the city where the "incident" occurs.

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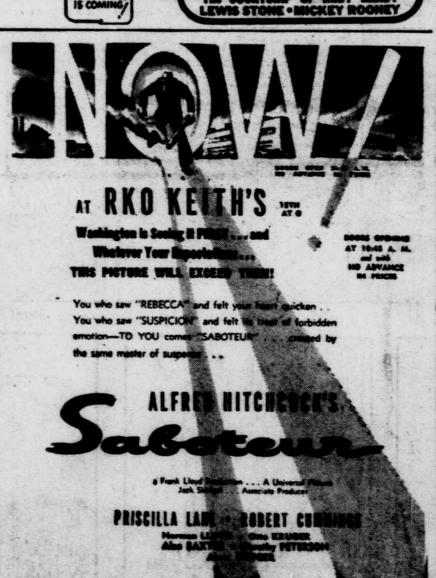
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## Capitol's Latest Another Musical Travel-Folder

'Song of the Islands' Has Tunes, Betty Grable and Technicolor: Al Trahan Is Stage Star

By HARRY MacARTHUR.

Reporting on the average Twentieth Century-Fox lavish musical with technicolor, Betty Grable and hundreds of gorgeous dancing girls, is, you should be told, no easy task. By the time the reviewer is back at the office facing his typewriter he usually can remember nothing that has happened to him in the past couple of hours, during which life has seemed just a dull thud. And the brief snatches of the picture he does recall, like interludes in a dream induced by overindulgence is chilled burscht and sour cream, hardly seem worth mentioning.

There is, for instance, if we can only get over this yawning spell, this affair called "Song of the Islands," which opened yesterday at Loew's white Organic and State Capital The Cast.

only get over this yawning spell, this affair called "Song of the Islands," which opened yesterday at Loew's Capitol, "Song of the Islands" is another of Mr. Darryl Zanuck's musicals of the travel-folder school. The locale this time is a tiny isle the fact that the natives keep stressing the point that they are Hawaiians.

stressing the point that they are Hawaiians.

That's the locale—complete with scenery, quaint customs, songs about fish and poi, and Hollywood hule girls dressed in brown paint, black wigs and cellophane grass skirts. The plot is "Romeo and Juliet," with alight overtones of a minor case history of Freud's—the one about the girl who slugs a man and shouts "I hate you!" every time she shouts "I hate you!" every time she sees him because she loves him so

land are Victor Mature and Miss Grable and those who pant for tall, dark men or thin, blond wom-

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in the Hawaiian group, though a foreword, obviously added after Pearl Harbor, identifies it as one of the "Tropical Islands" in spite of looked lovelier than here in techni-AMUSEMENTS.

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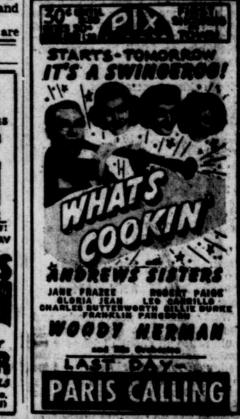


On the Capitol's stage is the well-known vaudeville veteran. Al Tra-han, with a new partner—and the same act. And it is still one of the funnier acts to be seen on the variety stages today, full of lively and sort of refined slapstick.

Others on the Capitol stage are

MES . MORE GAR

ages to account for some lively moments. And they are certainly a known as the wife of George Jessel known as the wife of George Jessel the comedian, and who also can sing; Adriana and Charley, trampotine artists; the Mulcahys, harmonicists, and the Rhythm Bookets.





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